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Book Reviews

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Documentos para servir a la historia del Nuevo México, 1538-1778. Colección Chimalistac, Vol. 13. Madrid, Ediciones José Porrúa Turanzas, 1962. Pp. viii, 484. 2 folding maps, index. $26.65.

Some four years ago José Porrúa Turanzas, member of the Mexican book family, launched the Colección Chimalistac of books and documents about the history of New Spain. The volume being here reviewed is No. 13 in that series, and the first to be primarily concerned with the history of New Mexico. Other volumes have concerned Baja California, the Pacific Northwest Coast, Mexico in general, Alta California, and Texas.

The collection is well-printed, paper-bound, and not inexpensive. The importance of the materials presented, the criterion being the rarity of the original work, and the limited editions of 225 copies, make the rather elevated price not out of line for libraries and serious collections of Southwestern Americana. Volume 13, for example, is a reprinting of about one half of the now quite rare Volume IV of *Documentos para la historia de México,* tercera serie, plus other pertinent documents.

A terminal date of 1778 is somewhat misleading in light of the actual contents, though it is technically correct, for one document is from the pen of Fray Silvestre Domínguez, O.F.M., who wrote the manuscript in April of that year. However, the materials presented by that famous early New Mexico priest are in the nature of an historical compendium of local events, not extending past 1710; while 1717 seems to be the terminal date of the remaining materials in this volume.

Contained within this book are such landmarks in the colonial period of New Mexico as Fray Alonso de Benavides' Memorial of 1630; the Mercurio Volante with the news of the recuperation of the provinces of New Mexico by Carlos de

Sigüenza y Góngora; the Relaciones of Father Gerónimo de Zárate Salmerón; and a series of documents concerning New Mexico during and after the reconquest. One particularly interesting document, though very likely a contemporary forgery, is a detailed explanation of the Zárate Salmerón account, "written" by Jesuit Father Juan Amando Niel. This account by Niel is as interesting as it is inconsistent, appearing to be a rather polite refutation of the Zárate Salmerón Relaciones, written in a similar style, consisting of a lengthy series of paragraphs in imitation of that Franciscan. Leading Jesuit Historian, Father Ernest J. Burrus, indicates that even Niel is not known to have existed, nor could he have possibly been with Atondo in Baja California in 1654 and with Kino in Sonora-Arizona in 1705 and still be writing about the events some years later.

In summary, the book provides to the student and researcher in Southwestern History a treasury of unedited original documents for detailed study. Among them are some of the most important, and from them there is to be gained a picture of the problems that faced New Mexico, especially in the late 17th and early 18th Century, such as possible expansion, defense against external Indian enemies, control and remissionization of the Pueblo Indian groups, resettlement of the area by Spaniards, and internal conflict.

University of New Mexico DONALD C. CUTTER

Bad Medicine & Good. Tales of the Kiowas. By Wilbur Sturtevan Nye. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press. Pp. xxiv, 291, index. $5.00.

In 1937 Wilbur Sturtevant Nye published *Carbine and Lance* in which he detailed exciting episodes in the history of Fort Sill. *Bad Medicine and Good* is a continuation of Nye's basic interest in Fort Sill, and the Indians, especially the Kiowa, who figured so prominently in the fort's history.

The book presents 44 episodes or "stories" in the life of the Kiowa, introduced by a sketch of Kiowa history con-

structed from a number of individual Kiowa accounts. Nye obtained the bulk of his material from interviews, largely with George Hunt and his relatives. Hunt worked with James Mooney, ethnologist, in 1890, and Nye was able to use several other informants contacted earlier by Mooney. Capt. Hugh L. Scott, stationed at Fort Sill during the 1890's, included a few narratives in his manuscript on the Sign Language, and Nye also made use of some of these.

In presenting his "stories" Nye has rewritten the material following "the Indian manner of expression as far as possible without resorting to artificialities . . . /or distorting/the content." Nye has been able to present the simple, direct flow of the Kiowa war narrative in good facsimile. With few exceptions "The ideas and attitudes presented in the stories/do seem to/belong entirely to the Indians" (xix).

Although the narratives cover a narrow range of Kiowa life, notably war and religion, Nye has introduced accounts dealing with other aspects of their culture. For example, he takes up the uses of the buffalo, eagle-catching, healing, sorcery, and the Sun Dance, much of the latter drawn from Mooney. While Nye has not endeavored to present a well-rounded description of Kiowa life and culture by means of selected narratives, he nevertheless deserves praise for the way in which he has interwoven relevant details of Kiowa custom into the accounts.

The historian will find little in the way of traditional history in *Bad Medicine and Good.* Some of the war narratives reach back to the 18th century and reveal the range of Kiowa raiding at this and other times. Occasionally Nye supplies a bit of culture-history when he describes the origins of particular "medicine" pieces and indicates how they have been passed down through family lines. The narratives dealing with the reservation period are of interest in bringing out some of the interpersonal conflicts that attended the overriding of traditional custom and belief by those of the invading non-Indian hunters, soldiers, and missionaries.

A book of this kind, grounded as it is in real-life situations, possesses a singular virtue which other more formal works may not have. The living situations serve to bring new understandings with respect to the way in which attitudes and motives were applied in making decisions and in regulating inter-personal relations.

The fact that Nye spends so much time with Kiowa warfare is not a simple consequence of his own military life and interest. Kiowa culture, as with other Indian groups in the high plains, largely revolved around raiding for booty and prestige. The desperate will to live up to the model of a warrior stands out starkly in the composed and courageous death of the wounded and cornered warrior as well as in the foolhardy escapades of those who, on a dare, ride out to be targets for entrenched soldiers or who ride through an enemy encampment for thrills and applause. Of all the narratives, "The T'au" seems to capture the very character of the Kiowa raid. The hardships of the campaign, unexpected dangers, cruel necessities, loyal comradeship, warrior idealism, assumption of leadership and decision-making in a time of crisis, and finally the aura of the mysterious in the miraculous return of comrades given up for dead,—all are found in this narrative.

In short, Mr. Nye is to be commended for assembling a Kiowa anthology that is interesting, informative, and written with a view to controlling the bias and symbolic context of the non-Indian. The sketches of Mr. Nick Eggenhofer, scattered throughout the text to illustrate an episode in the narrative, add a lively quality to the tone of the book. However, no effort is made to achieve authentic reproduction of Kiowa costuming or equipment. Two small maps help the reader orient himself to the area where the actions take place, "The Red River Area in the 1870's" and "The Staked Plains Region."

University of Toronto FRED W. VOGET

Fallen Guidon; The Forgotten Saga of General Jo Shelby's Confederate Command, The Brigade That Never Surrendered, and its expedition to Mexico. By Edward Adams Davis. Santa Fe: Stagecoach Press, 1962. Pp. xiii, 174. Ltd. edition, $5.00.

This interesting chronicle is the odyssey of General Jo Shelby and his men who roamed across Texas and Mexico immediately after the Civil War.

When General Buckner and Kirby Smith finally surrendered all the Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River, Shelby's Missouri Cavalry Division (known before as the Missouri Cavalry Brigade or the Iron Brigade) refused to give up. Instead, reorganized as a new Iron Brigade under Shelby's rigid discipline, it rode across Texas—through Corsicana, Waco, Austin and San Antonio to Eagle Pass. There Shelby ordered the Confederate Stars and Bars to be thrown into the muddy waters of the Rio Grande, and tossed his own Henry of Navarre plume after it for good measure. The Shelby bridgade's objective was service in the civil war then raging in Mexico, either with the Juaristas or under the banner of the Emperor Maximilian, but in either case to rally some 50,000 Confederate emigres and dominate Mexico. Shelby and his band were primarily soldiers of fortune, fighting guerrillas and others as they went along, temporarily restoring order in anarchic Houston (a detachment did this) and Austin; massacring horse-thieves, foraging off the land, and killing whoever opposed them. Upon entering Mexico they sold some of their military equipment to the Juarez forces, but because of their basic dislike for democracy and liberal political institutions decided to serve Maximilian's monarchist cause. Finally, however, in Mexico City they were rejected by Maximilian, and, after a final review, dispersed to the four winds. Some went to the Orient, others to the South Seas, others to an experimental colony in Orizaba, a few joined Juarez and others, including Shelby, finally drifted homeward to Missouri.

Contrary to the volume's subtitle, Davis' story is hardly a "forgotten saga," for as late as 1954, Daniel O'Flaherty in his full-length biography of Jo Shelby devoted a whole section, over one hundred pages, to the marauding expedition. O'Flaherty also wrote his account from the same basic source Davis relies upon, namely the reminiscences of Shelby's highly emotional adjutant, Major John N. Edwards.

Fallen Guidon, however, is a labor of personal devotion. Two of Dr. Davis' grandfathers fought for the Confederacy and one of them rode with Shelby's brigade. The author has traversed at least a part of the route, and has immersed himself in the details of soldier-life. His descriptions of the daily routine of the cavalry troops are almost as real as the smoke of the campfires, the sweaty leather of the saddles, the sagebrush, the mesquite, the shimmering heat, the biting night winds off the *llano estacado,* the thin mountain air, and the lush sub-tropical vegetation of Mexico—all are there, and vividly real in his word-pictures. At times the prose becomes too turgid with cliches of the "Gray Glory" and the ragged guidon. After more than one hundred and fifty pages of duels, various other bloodlettings and even mass extermination, Dr. Davis finally cuts through the sentimental haze and admits that Shelby and his heroes were essentially a gang—"reckless, butchering centaurs who made conscience subsidiary to slaughter."

University of New Mexico GEORGE WINSTON SMITH

Las Vegas, New Mexico—the Town that Wouldn't Gamble. By Milton W. Callon. Las Vegas, N. M.: Las Vegas Daily Optic, The Las Vegas Publishing Co., Inc., 1962. Pp. 352. $5.75. Edition limited to 1500 copies.

In his preface for *Las Vegas, New Mexico—the Town that Wouldn't Gamble* Mr. Callon writes as follows: "There were many reasons for writing the history of Las Vegas but the most important reason concerns the future of the community involved. I believe, for a city to progress, it should have a

documentary account of its past as a guide to the future." Only time can evaluate this book's success as a guide; it is possible, however to examine other qualities.

Histories, as this reviewer understands them, are compiled from sources which are pinned down by footnotes or a bibliography. Mr. Callon has evidently done a great deal of research but has supplied no bibliography and of the two footnotes the book contains, one explains the mis-interpretation of a Spanish phrase and the other states that a line of poetry is copyrighted. This does not mean that sources are neglected. The book consists largely of quotations and generally their source is given in the preceding text. Usually the reference is fairly plain but sometimes it is not. This, for example, is taken from page 27.

"On April 2, 1864, a correspondent traveling with the district judge and the attorney general described Las Vegas thusly:" The quotation follows and the reader is left to wonder what correspondent, what district judge and what attorney general; also where the quotation came from.

There is further trouble. Mr. Callon feels free to quote from someone who is quoting somebody else. Here is a statement from page 78. "—Father Vollmar described conditions in New Mexico from the records of Father Projectus Machebeuf which pertains to the time of Archbishop Lamy's arrival in the territory." Again a quotation follows and again there is a question: just who is quoting what?

These are two instances but there are many more and it is readily apparent that footnotes or a bibliography or both would be of considerable value. Indeed the lack of them might well give a historian who was also a carping critic a case of the galloping fantods.[1]

While *Las Vegas, New Mexico—the Town that Wouldn't Gamble* is open to criticism as a history it does come through in fine style with an adjunct all good books should have. After

1. Not wishing to compound Mr. Callon's vagueness, a source is given. The definition of fantod appears on page 918, Second Edition, Webster's New International Dictionary, G. and C. Merriam Co., Springfield, Mass.

a slow start, a romance develops. There are two heroines—East Las Vegas and West Las Vegas—and for a time they live in amity but a villain parts them. In November, 1897, Russell A. Kistler arrived, founded the Las Vegas Daily Optic and fell in love with New Town—East Las Vegas—but spurned her older sister, West Las Vegas. Due to his efforts the sisters separated and a whole succession of heroes could not unite them. Mr. Callon deals sternly with Russ Kistler but it is evident that he holds a sneaking fondness for the man. So does this reviewer. Where else can you find an editor who describes the subjects of a lynching as being "jerked to Jesus"?

Having considered history and romance, another aspect of *Las Vegas, New Mexico—the Town that Wouldn't Gamble* must be mentioned. It is, quite patently, a labor of love. Mr. Callon may neglect or mistreat source material, he may philosophize, he may write as though he was a member of the Booster's Club and yet his real affection for the place shines through it all. Because of this very bias he has produced an unusually clear study of a little western community with its faults and foibles, its ambitions and achievements.

The town, of course, has a site and streets and buildings. Mr. Callon describes these but chiefly he concerns himself with people. He tells of the early Spanish colonists and their difficulties. He speaks of the traders on the Santa Fe Trail, their wagon masters and mule skinners and the merchants they supplied. He considers the altercation between the parish priest and the Jesuits who founded the first college. He writes about Fort Union and the soldiers, of the railroad and the railroaders, of the vigilantes and the law officers and the toughs, of fabulous Montezuma Hot Springs and the guests there entertained. Jesse James and Billy the Kid slip into the story. Pat Garret threatens to arm his prisoners, subduing an ugly crowd. Russ Kistler names the murderers in jail, prophesying that, before morning, they will dangle from the old windmill in the plaza. Bartenders open saloon doors along Railroad Avenue and do a little advertizing for old 999, the

bordello across the alley in the rear. Wailing penitentes drag their crosses to hilltops at Easter time and politicians meet and plot in secret conclave. People, always people, come and go, pursuing their varied, many-patterned paths.

Mr. Callon has produced a genuine bit of Western Americana and this reviewer is happy that it came into his hands.

Albuquerque, N. M. BENNETT FOSTER

Jacob Hamblin, Buckskin Apostle. By Paul Bailey. Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1961. Pp. 408. This is an exact reprint of the same work published in a limited edition by Westernlore Press in 1948.

Jacob Hamblin has become one of the legendary figures of the Mormon Country. The first book bearing his name as its title appeared in 1881, five years prior to his death. Written by James A. Little from reminiscences of Hamblin's life obtained through personal interviews, a second edition appeared in 1909. In 1944, the same work was published under the title *Three Mormon Classics* with selections from the journals of Wilford Woodruff and George Q. Cannon.

During the 1945-46 season the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of the Mormon Church used a special edition of Little's sketches from the life of Hamblin as a lesson manual for those of scout age. This work by James A. Little, along with a portion of the handwritten journal of Jacob Hamblin held by the Church Historian's library at Salt Lake City, was the basis for Paul Bailey's fictionalized biographical study of Jacob Hamblin, designated by Brigham Young, apostle to the Indians.

A study of Jacob Hamblin by Pearson H. Corbett, published in 1952, lists and uses new sources pertaining to the life and work of Jacob Hamblin that could have been used (along with other sources now available to some future Hamblin biographer) by Bailey for a major revision of his 1948 study. As it is, *Jacob Hamblin, Buckskin Apostle,* is the most readable (if not entirely dependable) account presently

available of the life of this legendary figure of Mormon-Indian relations on the frontier.

Mr. Bailey has caught the spirit of this unusual personality and of the community that he was a member of. In a clear and forceful way the author portrays the devotion Hamblin held for his church, the influence it had upon his life, and the sacrifices he made for it. The church demanded all and he gave all: wives, children, personal gain, and his own physical health and welfare. If there had been more to give, the author suggests that it would have been given unquestioningly. This theme is carried to the reader throughout the work.

During the first quarter-century of its existence in the west the church needed such men as Jacob Hamblin badly. From the beginning in the valley of the Great Salt Lake colonizers were sent out in every direction to establish Mormon claims on watering places and cultivable land. Brigham Young's concept of a state for his followers included—besides Utah—what is now western Colorado, southwestern Wyoming, southern Idaho, Nevada, and a corridor via Las Vegas springs and San Bernardino to a seaport at San Diego. Northern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico were explored and communities established there. Such men as Jacob Hamblin, Thales Haskell, Dudley Leavitt, Dimick Huntington and Daniel Jones were necessary to Brigham Young and his vision of a self-sustaining community.

Here in this great interior basin the problems of Ohio, Missouri and Illinois to the average church member seemed far away, but as small colonizing units pushed into new country in all directions the Indian groups that surrounded them were very real. Jacob Hamblin represents a type of man that developed in the church that the leaders could depend upon to act as a liaison between the new colony and their Indian neighbors until the two groups arrived at a working relationship.

Paul Bailey in this work gives us a highly interesting insight into the nature of Mormonism at its outer limits during three decades, a knowledge of Mormon-Indian relations, and a

view of interactions between various Indian groups such as the Paiute, Hopi and Navaho. The Mountain Meadows massacre, the Utah war, the exploration of the area by government explorers such as Major John Wesley Powell, the federal menace to the brethren who practiced plural marriage; these and other incidents are woven into this very readable narrative of the life of Jacob Hamblin.

The book is recommended by this reviewer as an opportunity for a rewarding reading experience.

Brigham Young University S. LYMAN TYLER

The Hoskaninni Papers: Mining in Glen Canyon, 1897-1902. By Robert B. Stanton. Edited by C. Gregory Crampton and Dwight L. Smith. University of Utah Anthropological Papers. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, November, 1961. Pp. xiii, 177. $2.75.

Despite how widely separated gold mining locales may be, each with its own peculiarities and problems, recurring themes run through their histories. Following the discovery of nuggets or veins, big dreams lure men and money to isolated canyons where hard realities challenge their ingenuity —most often to provide sufficient water for mining. Continuously uncovering gold-bearing gravels or rocks in quantities rich enough to pay heavy expenses becomes impossible. The bubbles pop and the camps die, except for a few lonely souls who never lose hope.

Stanton's diary tells such a story. When his tests proved conclusively that gold could be taken from Glen Canyon, he obtained the financial backing to build a dredge for the Hoskaninni Company. Despite heavy expenditures in time, energy, and money, the powdery gold could not be saved by large-scale operations and the enterprise failed completely. Visitors to the area can still see the dredge machinery, broken and rusting away.

Not only do readers of western mining history find the stories similar in many respects, but they often meet the

same men. It was personally interesting to renew acquaintances with Colonel Benjamin R. Hite, brother of the discoverer of gold in Glen Canyon and one of its prominent operators, whom I had met as an active claim owner in the upper forks of Red River, Taos County, New Mexico. Too, Stanton visited H. G. Reiling's dredges at Bannack, Montana, and it was this gentleman who built the first dredge in New Mexico at Elizabethtown, Colfax County, and several in Colorado.

Certainly this book is valuable in the series detailing Utah's past, although few would pick it to read for pleasure. But to the person interested in mining history, here is an unusual opportunity to chew meat that belongs on the scant bones of notes we more often collect on mining enterprises. The death—as *well* as the birth—is spelled out clearly, so that we better understand the history of other mining ventures.

Editors Crampton of the University of Utah and Smith of Miami University of Ohio are to be congratulated for their careful work. The footnotes alone make many of Stanton's notes meaningful and indicate intensive research. The pictures, many of them by Stanton, add much to the story. It would have been helpful, however, if several places mentioned in the book could have been found on the map; I got lost. Perhaps that is the proper experience for those of us searching for the history as well as the gold.

University of Texas JIM B. PEARSON

New Mexico, A History of Four Centuries. By Warren A. Beck. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962. Pp. xii, 363. Illus., index.

There has long been need for a one-volume history of New Mexico. Professor Beck saw this need and attempted to meet it. Unfortunately, his history is marred by a number of errors and a much larger number of dubious or incorrect statements. These will not be obvious to the general reader except in a few cases, but to those folks who have more knowledge of the sub-

ject, the weaknesses of this book will be more apparent. A few of the dubious statements arose from the use of weak source materials and others from an incomplete understanding of the history of New Mexico. On the other hand the author has performed a useful service in drawing heavily upon unused materials in the form of university theses and dissertations.

In the preface Professor Beck states that he is not wedded to any central theme in this work but that he does try to be objective, especially because of the three-fold cultural background in New Mexico.

Chapter I describes the geography of New Mexico and Chapter II discusses the Indian folks. In regard to the latter, it would have been advisable throughout the text to have made less use of the word "Indian" and greater use of the name of a particular group of Indians. The Navahos differ somewhat in their culture from their Apache kinsmen and the Pueblos, of course, represent a village culture as against the semi-nomadic or nomadic life of their distant enemies. Chapters III to V cover the Spanish Colonial period. Chapter VI witnesses the arrival of the Americans from across the Eastern Plains and the balance of the book deals with the period following the American occupation of the Southwest.

The last three chapters attempt to evaluate the New Mexico that has emerged in the second half of the 20th century. It might have been better if the author had maintained a chronological pattern because the evaluation stretches into the historical background. Furthermore, the sources used are not always up to date, so the evaluation as of the 1950's suffers a bit in detail.

It should be pointed out that the name "New Mexico" was used as early as 1561 (p. 3) ; the uprising of 1837 was something more than a Pueblo Indian revolt (p. 121) ; the *encomienda* in New Mexico was not an allotment of labor to Spanish settlers, but a system of tribute payments to the *encomenderos* (p. 65) ; the quotation credited to James S. Calhoun should be credited to William Bent (p. 179) ; the discussion of the Indian problem (pp. 183-199) leaves much to be de-

sired; I suggest that the relative importance of the Indian has increased rather than decreased because they acquired the privilege of voting about a decade ago (p. 283); Harvey Fergusson, Sr. was a Congressman from New Mexico, not his son, the author (p. 322); the Governor of the state, no doubt, would like to have 5,000 jobs at his disposal, but that is not so today (p. 298).

All in all, *New Mexico, A History of Four Centuries,* is a disappointment. The author saw a gap in New Mexicana, but that gap yet remains to be filled in a single volume.

F. D. R.

On Desert Trails Today and Yesterday. By Randall Henderson. Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1961. Pp. 357. Preface. Illustrations, index. $5.00.

A present-day peculiarity which would have astonished our ancestors is the passion a great many people now feel for the arid expanses of the American Southwest. Where the Forty-Niners saw only a forbidding and dangerous wasteland, their descendants find strength and beauty. Instead of escaping from the desert, they escape to it. "Over four million human beings have now established more or less permanent homes on this desert," says Randall Henderson, and adds that at least another million are part-time inhabitants, while millions more have come as tourists.

Mr. Henderson has spent the best part of his life following desert trails and telling the world about the wonderful places where they have led him. A graduate of the University of Southern California with some experience as a sports writer on the Los Angeles *Times,* he decided as a young man to make the desert his home. He edited country newspapers, served his country in World War I, and found his true vocation when he started *Desert Magazine* in the early thirties. Into it he put all his experience and enthusiasm. An indefatigable traveler and camper, he spent his spare time getting to know the country and its people. He chronicled his forays

and friendships in his magazine, and the first-hand quality of his writing, together with his unassuming but appealing style, soon raised the circulation from 600 to 30,000.

On Desert Trails is a selection of his work from the files of the magazine, with changes and additions. For the sake of background he begins with Coronado, who made "the first extended exploration" of the area, but ancient history does not interest him much and he hastens on to the coming of the Americans, the Gadsden Purchase, the era of the prospectors, the arrival of the Mormons, the building of the great dams, the rush of home seekers during the last few decades.

His background painted in, he is free to launch out into a loosely connected series of chapters, mostly about people and places he has come to know at first hand. He has a passion for wild palm trees, and has traveled hundreds of miles looking for hidden palm oases. He includes a wonderful chapter on the old prospectors he used to know and visit. His account of Death Valley Scotty and the Albert Johnsons, who kept Scotty in money and railroad tickets, is just as good. There are fine accounts of the Lower California Peninsula, the cliff dwellers of the Kaiparowits Plateau, the Hopi snake dancers, Monument Valley, the Havasupai Indians in their beautiful and inaccessible canyon, the first steamboat on the Colorado (he located the wreckage), rock hounds, scientists—even some vivid impressions of the Sahara, where he went as an Air Force officer in World War II.

A particularly appealing chapter is the one about Everett Ruess, the young poet and artist who left the world of banks and motor cars to wander the Utah wilderness alone, and who disappeared without trace in November, 1934. Mr. Henderson has followed his trail long and carefully and reconstructs plausibly what happened to him.

On Desert Trails is much more than a collection of facts about the Land of Little Rain. It is a testament, full of wisdom and devotion, from the original apostle of the desert. Ordinary inarticulate human beings who feel drawn to this country will thank him for saying what they cannot say for

themselves about "the desert which lies beyond the golf courses, the cocktail bars and the heated swimming pools—beyond the mask of aridity."

"To those who come to the desert with tolerance," he says, "it gives friendliness; to those who come with courage it gives new strength of character. Those seeking relaxation find in its far horizons and secluded canyons release from the world of man-made tensions. For those seeking beauty the desert offers nature's rarest artistry. This is the desert that has a deep and lasting fascination for men and women with a bit of poetry in their souls."

Texas Western College C. L. Sonnichsen

Great Surveys of the American West. By Richard A. Bartlett. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962. Pp. xxiii, 408. Illustrations, index, bibliography. $7.95.

There once was a widespread fallacy in the historical profession that doctoral dissertations are not sufficiently meritorious to warrant publication in book form. Richard Bartlett's study of the *Great Surveys* is another obvious refutation of that old assertion, for this book is a dressed up doctoral dissertation presented a few years back at the University of Colorado.

The study concerns what by today's vogue is called the history of science, but what by yesterday's standards was called exploration; but called by either name this is an outstanding contribution to the field of both Western American History and the History of the United States. The title of the book may not seem ideally applicable, but it derives from the common term used contemporaneously to identify four specific surveys which between 1867 and 1879 carried out extended geological and topographical investigations in the West from the Rocky Mountains to the Sierra Nevada. In this manner many of the left over areas of America were mapped, some of them being viewed for the first time by white

men, and most of them being "discovered" in the scientific sense of the term.

Bartlett treats successively the work of Dr. Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden, Clarence King, John Wesley Powell, and George Montague Wheeler. A biographical sketch of each is followed by an inquiry into their activity.

Hayden was an ex-medic turned geologist. Optimistic, prolific in his publication, popularizer of the West, the chief areas of his interest were the Rocky Mountain regions of Wyoming and Colorado. His greatest contributions were his discoveries in the Yellowstone, and his reports on the Mount of the Holy Cross and the Cliff Dwellings of southwestern Colorado.

King explored eastward and westward along the 40th parallel in a prolonged series of field trips from 1867 to 1879. The youthful, highly educated, urbane leader and his operations were categorized as quite scientific, but in a practical sense quite useless. At a cost of $600,000, the King Survey could at least claim credit for exploding the Great Diamond Hoax, one of the West's greatest frauds, occasioned by the salting of some diamonds into a remote location in northwestern Colorado athwart the exploratory route of King and his men.

Powell, one-armed ex-school teacher, ex-soldier, was largely self-trained. Brilliant, energetic, forceful, he is best known for his daring descents of the turbulent Colorado river, feats that stirred the imagination and tested the very fiber of a handful of resolute adventurers. Powell also explored and mapped the areas of southern Utah and northwestern Arizona. His influence brought about a congressional investigation of the Great Surveys, and the resulting consolidation was soon under the direction of this egocentric, ambitious, unconquerable explorer.

The United States Geographical Survey West of the One Hundredth Meridian was entrusted to West Pointer Wheeler. Dedicated to a desire to produce accurate topographical maps rather than geological representations, the young army lieu-

tenant explored extensively between 1871 and 1879. Thorough and wide ranging, the results lack luster because the work was left largely uncompleted as a result of the consolidation of the surveys.

Thirty three illustrations and several maps aid in an understanding of the scope, personalities and methods of the Great Surveys that had pushed back the frontiers of science in the American West.

University of New Mexico DONALD C. CUTTER

Narcissa Whitman: An Historical Biography. By Opal Sweazea Allen. Portland, Ore.; Binfords and Mort, 1959. Two books. Pp. xxvi, 325. Bibliography, index, illustrations, end paper maps. $3.50.

Interesting history is worthy of retelling and fresh points of view with respect to old themes should not be unwelcome. Whether they gain in appeal through fictionizing by way of conversations is very questionable. It is likely to result in excessive romanticizing, and, in the case of this novel, the romantic element in the Whitman marriage was over played. Actually the courtship of these missionaries was probably a postlude to the wedding bells.

To many the vivid description of the journey which took the newly-weds over the Pennsylvania canal and tramway system and by boat down the Ohio has more true color than the love theme. The account of experiences on the trail rings true and the element of hardship is not exaggerated.

Mrs. Allan sensed that Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spalding, though very proper women, understood the true status of the semi-morganatic relationship between fur traders and their Indian or half-breed mates. Unlike the hypercritical Reverend and Mrs. Herbert Beaver, they had an opportunity to learn about the facts of mountain life on the trail. Also given in good perspective were the austerity and frustrations in the lives of missionary wives. Although the crowding of the stations, particularly after the migrations had begun,

was evident, the reader might still remain unaware that the biggest trial of the pioneer woman was lack of privacy despite the big open spaces.

Whereas the internecine quarreling in the American Board mission to Oregon is not denied, it is played down somewhat. Spalding, probably very properly, is treated fairly and not unsympathetically, but the cantankerous William H. Gray and Asa Bowen Smith escaped too easily by being almost ignored.

Surprisingly, though not improperly, the two facets of the Whitman legend usually accented, the events leading to the massacre and the massacre itself, receive less space than ordinarily. Indian apprehensions about the size of the migrations and their panic over the epidemics are clearly presented. Not so the intensity of the Indian's concern with the blood-feud and the Indian's knowledge of the disastrous results of federal Indian removal during the 1830's and early 1840's. As has been true throughout history, irritations, whether local or broader in their implications, are likely to be attributed to agitation by outsiders, in this case Joe Lewis, and not to deep seated grievances. The post-massacre developments are concluded somewhat abruptly.

Readers might get wrong impressions about Fort Leavenworth being "outside the boundary of the United States" and the precise year Colter had the experiences in his "hell." More serious is calling Sacajawea the guide of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The bibliography shows more research than that which goes into many fictionized writings, yet certainly key items are missing. Clifford M. Drury's edition of the Spalding-Smith papers was published a year before this book. References to Catholic and Anglican sources are conspicuous by their absence.

The reading public will enjoy this work, but historians will regret that the project was not expanded into a comprehensive and definitive biography of a significant woman.

Washington State University HERMAN J. DEUTSCH